

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: December 11, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-131)

TO: Charlie Craig
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Habitat Projects Lake Roosevelt Tributaries – Bridge Creek Passage/Habitat Improvements

Project No: 1990-018-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.0 In Channel Modification and Habitat Enhancement Techniques, 1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches, 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures, 1.7 Install other Habitat Complexity Structures, 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods, 1.10 Structural Bank Protection using Engineered Structures, 1.12 Hardened Fords, 2.0 Special Vegetation Treatment Techniques including Techniques for Wetlands and Riparian Areas, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.6 Native Seed Inventories, 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species.

Location: Ferry County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT)

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish passage and habitat improvement project with the Colville Confederated Tribes on Bridge Creek in Ferry County, Washington. This project will take place completely on Colville Confederated Tribe lands. The proposed project will include the restoration and stabilization of approximately 2,560 feet of the lower Bridge Creek stream channel including floodplain and wetland connections. A fish passage barrier will be removed and a fence will be constructed around the stream to prevent livestock access.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Sheri Sears with the Colville Confederated Tribes (November 19, 2003) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area is bald eagle. A bald eagle nest is located approximately 1 mile north of the Bridge Creek work site. The nest however is sufficient distance from the work area to eliminate any seasonal or other restrictions. BPA determined that the project would have no effect on bald eagle. If a bald eagle(s) is spotted in the work area during project implementation, work should be temporarily halted until the eagle(s) leaves on its own will.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource survey of the project area was completed by Applied Archaeology Research (AAR). The survey included a literature/site record review, cartographic research, a pedestrian survey, and excavation of shovel test probes. Based on AAR's findings, BPA concluded that there will be no effect on prehistoric or historic

resources associated with the Bridge Creek project and that no additional archaeological investigation is necessary in the project area. BPA also determined that the proposed activities would have no visual or physical impact on any formally recorded TCPs in the project area vicinity. In the event that archaeological material is encountered during project activities, archaeologists from BPA and the Colville Confederated Tribes will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. The CCT History/Archaeology Department concurred with BPA's findings on December 4, 2003.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Bridge Creek Project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable permits and approvals. The Colville Confederated Tribes will grant permits and approvals for this project since the project is located completely on Tribal lands.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Bridge Creek project. The project has been described in the Natural Resource Newsletter that is sent to Tribal Membership. The project proponent also held a public meeting to discuss the project in Keller, Washington. Comments received from the public to date have been very favorable. The project has gone through a full integrated review by the Colville Confederated Tribes Natural Resource Department. In addition, the project proponent has consulted with Ferry County, the Natural Resource Conservation District, the Ferry County Conservation District, local landowners, Lake Roosevelt managers, and the Lake Roosevelt Forum.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 12-11-02

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 12-11-03

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

Bald Eagle No Effect Determination, October 27, 2003

CCT History/Archaeology Department Letter of Concurrence, December 4, 2003

cc: (w/ attachments)

Ms. Sheri Sears – Colville Confederated Tribes